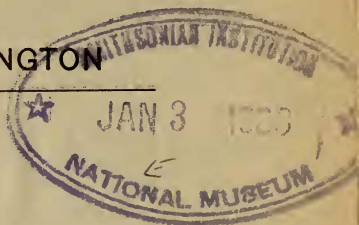


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTONA NEW WOODPECKER OF THE GENUS *PICULUS*
FROM SONORA.

BY A. J. VAN ROSSEM AND THE MARQUESS HACHISUKA.

This genus of woodpeckers, widely distributed in the Neotropical Region, has previously been detected only as far north as southern Sinaloa (Plomosas and Mount Lisiarraga). The discovery that it reaches into the pine-oak regions in the mountains of southern Sonora definitely extends the limits northward of its range. In such an environment, van Rossem and Hannum found it present in the Sierra Madre foothills, where an intensive search finally produced three specimens,—two males and a female.

Specimens of the geographically nearest race, *auricularis* Salvin and Godman, and its probable synonym *godmani* Hargitt, seem to be rare in collections. However, thanks to the courtesy of the Bureau of Biological Survey, we have been able to examine one specimen from Xautipa, Guerrero, and three from Plomosas, Sinaloa. The three Sonora specimens are very different from any of these and we accordingly name the race as

***Piculus auricularis sonoriensis*, subsp. nov.**

Type.—Adult male, no. 31886, Dickey collection; Rancho Santa Barbara, 20 miles northeast of Guirocoba, southeastern Sonora, Mexico, June 8, 1937, altitude approximately 5000 feet; collected by A. J. van Rossem and Robert Hannum.

Subspecific characters.—Nearest to *Piculus auricularis auricularis* (Salvin and Godman) but general coloration gray tinged with green, instead of green slightly tinged with gray. Pileum and nape, "light neutral gray" to "gull gray"; upper back between nape and dorsum, prominently barred with grayish white; back gray, tinged with olive-green instead of green tinged with olive-gray.

Range.—Pine-oak association in the Sierra Madre foothills of south-

eastern Sonora and probably in the adjacent portions of Chihuahua and Sinaloa.

Remarks.—By the standards of fifty years ago or less, *sonoriensis* would have been described as a distinct species. Certainly the material at hand shows no intergradation but *sonoriensis* is so obviously a geographic representative of *auricularis* that we prefer to use a trinomial. For that matter it is not unlikely that all of the Mexican forms of the green woodpecker will eventually be classed as races of *Piculus rubiginosus* (Swainson).

The three specimens collected are the total take of this woodpecker in nearly two weeks' work in the type locality. The fact that Brewster's collectors, Frazar and McLeod, did not detect the species at all is further confirmation of the belief that it is very uncommon at this northern extreme of the species range.